

MEMORANDUM

TO: ELSR Commission Members

DATE: September 21, 2004

FROM: Dr. Suellen Reed, Co-Chair
Mary Downes, Co-Chair

RE: September 28, 2004 ELSR Commission Meeting

As the Commission continues to work towards the December 31, 2004 initial report of recommendations to the Governor and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the work planned for the remaining few meetings becomes even more crucial in eliciting the strategies / recommendations that will move this effort forward.

With this in mind, the work session format for the September 28th meeting has been reframed in order to build upon the work accomplished in the previous months' meetings and to focus on action steps/recommendations needed for the initial report. Your expertise is an integral, valued part of each meeting's work session especially as the Commission focuses on recommendations.

The objective under this revised organization will be to consider how all the strategies (e.g., transition, entrance age, family literacy, collaborative partnerships, health screenings) given to us by the P-16 Plan and the Executive Order can support the four areas of: (1) providing optional full-day Kindergarten for all children; (2) improve quality and coordination of early education and school readiness services including child care, preschool, family support services and programs; (3) make sure every child has access to high quality programs that help prepare them for school; (4) ensure that parents acquire the skills and knowledge needed to be successful as their child's first teacher. These four areas reflect member discussion points from the June, July, and August meetings.

The revised format for the September / October/November meetings will include four breakout groups on the above four areas with time at the end of each meeting for groups to share the highlights of their discussions with all Commission members. The following Commission members have agreed to facilitate each of the groups: Dr. Denna Renbarger (full-day Kindergarten), Dr. Ena Shelley (quality and coordination), Dianna Wallace (ensuring access), and Dr. Carol Touloukian (parent involvement). An external facilitator from the Blumberg Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in Special Education, School of Education, Indiana State University will also be with us to provide direction to the groups and to provide guidance to the process of adding details/recommendations to the focus areas. Based on your expertise, experience, and interest please indicate your first, second, and third choice for a work group (listed above). Please email your preference to Kathy Politz, kpoltz@doe.state.in.us by the morning of Monday, September 27th. Should you not respond, a work group will be assigned for you.

Parking arrangements have been made. Please be sure to download the attached letter and take with you to each of the remaining meetings. You will be parking in the Senate Avenue garage. You will need to enter the garage from the New York Street side (between West Street and Senate Avenue). The person on duty will need to see your letter. Please let me know if you cannot open the attachment so that the letter can be faxed or mailed to you prior to the meeting.

Please also find attached the minutes for the August 24th meeting and the agenda for the September meeting. Fact sheets concerning various programs and services in Indiana will be given to you at next week's meeting.

We will once again meet in Conference Room B of the Indiana Government Center South from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Should you have any questions or find you are unable to attend this meeting, please contact Kathy Politz 317-232-9154 / kpoltiz@doe.state.in.us or Ted Maple 317 464-4400 X 17 / tedm@che.state.in.us.